

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-1998

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

June 16, 1985

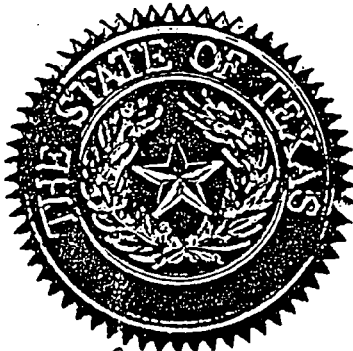
Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Constitution of Texas, I hereby veto Senate Bill 518 because of the following objections:

This bill requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to set a tentative parole release date for inmates shortly after their arrival at the Texas Department of Corrections, based in part upon objective statistical criteria.

While certain aspects of this bill are laudable, the bill could restrict the discretion entrusted to the Board of Pardons and Paroles in determining the time, terms and conditions under which a prisoner is released. The Board already has the authority to assess a prisoner's parole eligibility criteria and to identify a tentative release date. It is of paramount importance that the Board have the opportunity to effectuate its mandate to examine each prisoner's rehabilitation and worthiness to be released for parole on a case-by-case basis.

I do not believe that the Board's discretion should be limited by statute. Because this bill would establish a procedure which could be interpreted to require the Board to release prisoners earlier than might be prudent, it establishes questionable policy. No prisoner should be released until he has either served his entire sentence or shown by his conduct and other circumstances that he can be safely released into society.

Therefore, I veto S.B. 518.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark White".

Mark White
Governor of Texas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myra A. McDaniel".
Myra A. McDaniel
Secretary of State

Filed in the office of
Secretary of State

JUN 16 1985

Statutory Filings Division
Statutory Document